

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MTDIXON:BG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL TO AUTHORIZE KAMA PURCHASING
COMMISSION TO HANDLE PROCUREMENT FOR MOSCOW TRADE CENTER

REF: STATE 242236

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE CALLED IN SOVIET
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE MKRTUMOV OCT. 14 RE SOVIET PROPOSAL
TO AUTHORIZE KAMA PURCHASING COMMISSION TO HANDLE
PROCUREMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER IN MOSCOW AND
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) USG HAS NO OBJECTION, IN PRINCIPLE, TO KAMA UNDERTAKING
PURCHASES FOR TRADE CENTER BUT REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE VIA
LETTER TO WHICH ARMITAGE WILL REPLY;

(B) USG APPROVAL OF SOVIET PROPOSAL IS A SEPARATE ISSUE
FROM EXTENSION OF KAMA MANDATE BEYOND OCTOBER 18, 1976;

(C) IN RETURN FOR USG APPROVAL, WE WOULD HOPE FOR EARLY
ACTION ON PENDING REQUESTS FOR ACCREDITATION OF FOLLOWING
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U.S. FIRMS IN MOSCOW: CHEMICO, KOPPERS, INGERSOLL RAND AND ALLIS CHALMERS WHICH HAVE APPLIED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE; BURROUGHS, WESTINGHOUSE AND SINGER TO THE STATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND AMERICAN EXPRESS WHICH HAS PENDING APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION AS FINANCIAL INSTITUTION WITH STATE BANK OF USSR.

2. MKRTUMOV SAID HE WAS AWARE OF ACCREDITATION APPLICATION OF FIRST FOUR FIRMS AND THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO THE APPROVAL OF ALL FIRMS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MIGHT BE DIFFICULTY FINDING OFFICE SPACE FOR FIRMS. ARMITAGE EMPHASIZED FACT THAT APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN PENDING FOR SOME TIME AND REPEATED REQUEST FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION.

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